DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. The public sector banks have been advised to take effective measures for expeditious recovery of dues from the borrowers, including in NPA accounts.

Declaration of annual income of more than Rs.10 lakhs

1525. SHRI B.K. HARIPARSAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has only 3.5 crore Income-Tax payers of whom just about 85,000 have declared an annual income of more than Rs 10 lakhs;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has barred Government from operating Amnesty Schemes; and

(c) what are the steps being taken to track black money to generate more resources for the economy in the coming budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, according to statistics maintained by the Income tax Department, the number of income tax assessees is 3.06 crores as on 31st January, 2006. Further, the number of income tax assessees declaring income/loss of Rs.10 lakhs or more is 1.60 lakhs as on 31st March, 2005.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has not placed any bar on the Government from operating Amnesty Schemes in their decision in the case of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners and another *Vs* Union of India and others (231 ITR 24).

(c) Some of the measures proposed in the Budget 2006 are-

(i) to issue Permanent Account Number (PAN) *suo motto* in respect of certain cases.

(ii) to direct persons to apply for PAN in certain cases.

(iii) to make quoting of PAN mandatory in respect of more transactions in due course.

(iv) to increase the scope of Annual Information Returns (AIRs) by prescribing a few more transactions.